

LMI WEBSITE STREAMLINES INFORMATION SEARCHES

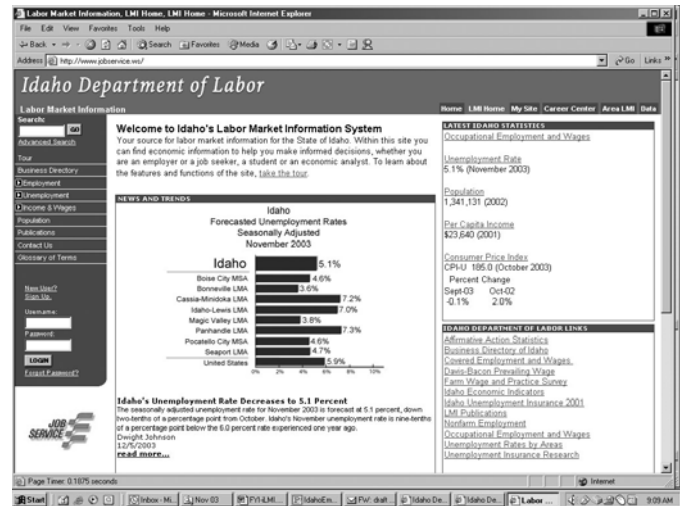
Want to know the population for Burley since 1940? What is the average starting wage of a computer technician in Coeur d'Alene? Which Idaho county currently has the lowest unemployment rate? These and literally thousands of more questions can be answered by a few well-placed clicks of a computer mouse and an Internet connection.

The Idaho Department of Labor's labor market information (LMI) website (www.jobservice.ws), many months in the making, was launched in late summer 2003. This segment of the Department's main website (www.jobservice.us), is also referred to as *iLMI*. It is a comprehensive collection of LMI for the state of Idaho, state regions, counties, and cities, with links to national data and other states' labor agencies.

The LMI found on the website includes data developed by the Idaho Department of Labor's Research and Analysis Bureau in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. In addition, data from many other sources that would provide information on Idaho's labor market has been included.

So what type of data would that be? Idaho's LMI customers are endless. They include statewide Workforce Investment Boards, economic development professionals from the private and public sectors, job seekers, high school and college students, the state Legislature, career counselors, the media, and all levels of business professionals. To determine how to organize the website and what to include in it was a challenge that continues to be reviewed on a regular basis to make sure the most relevant and recent information is available. On-going formal and informal customer surveys ensure the LMI provided on the website keeps up with demand. The type of information that is most requested and available on the website includes:

- Labor force data – state and county
- Population data – state, county, and city
- Wages by occupation
- Projections - occupation & industry employment – state and region
- Covered employment & wages by industry
- Employee benefit data
- Unemployment Insurance data – weeks compensated and benefits paid for the state, county, and regions
- Income – median, per capita, personal
- Business directory
- Davis Bacon wages



The Idaho Department of Labor's Labor Market Information website home page. It's accessible at www.jobservice.ws.

- Farm labor
- Affirmation action or EEO data – population, labor force, and occupations by race/ethnic and gender
- County economic & unemployment insurance profiles
- Job Service office labor market information

The *iLMI* is a state workforce information delivery system that was designed by a consortium of states. Simple search engines and website links allow users to browse numerous LMI sources. Analysts have developed specific links to LMI by Job Service area, county, and state regions.

The Idaho Department of Labor is committed to continue aggressively pursuing the use of electronic and digital media to more effectively publish and disseminate LMI. In October, the Regional Labor Economists rolled out a series of training classes for all Job Service consultants, supervisors, and managers about the information available on the *iLMI* website and how to use it in assisting the variety of customers they serve. Every attempt has been made to make sure customers can contact someone if they cannot find the information they seek on the website. Names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of contact people who are experts in their field of knowledge are included where appropriate. There is even a general e-mail address that is checked and answered regularly. The *iLMI* website will remain in a continuous improvement mode to meet the needs of all customers.

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